

Christmas Time At Liberty Hall



Holiday Hints

Homemade Gift Ideas

Here's a fun idea for the holidays—making your own Christmas tree decorations and Christmas gifts from clay, right in your kitchen.

It doesn't take marble, chisels and an "old master" to make modern masterpieces out of Play Clay. Jewelry, toys, decorations, even art objects can be fashioned by everyone.

Play Clay Recipe:

- 2 cups ARM & HAMMER® Baking Soda (1 pound package)
 - 1 cup cornstarch
 - 1 1/4 cups cold water
- Stir together baking soda and cornstarch in saucepan. Add water and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. When mixture is the consistency of moist mashed potatoes, turn out on a plate and cover with a damp cloth. When cool enough to handle, knead like dough, then follow directions for object you wish to make.

Flat Ornaments: On waxed paper, roll out clay to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters into circles, stars, triangles, Christmas tree or animal shapes. For raised designs, cut small circles with bottle caps, or model freehand; moisten and press onto larger cut-out. Etch patterns with knife or paper clip. Insert loop of wire into one edge for hanging. Let dry. Paint and finish.

Great Ideas For Holiday Stocking Stuffers

Stumped when it comes to suitable stocking stuffers for your favorite friends and family members this holiday season? Here are some ideas that may help.

Stocking stuffers can be inexpensive, yet innovative. For the children, handmade mittens, dolls or small stuffed animals make special gifts. If you have a budding artist in the family, slip some crayons or felt-tipped marking pens into the stocking. A popular choice with bookworms is small-size picture books or paperbacks on their favorite subjects or by favorite authors.

If there's a young couple just setting up housekeeping on your Christmas list, there are many handy household items you can stuff a stocking with—utensil sets, miniature fool kits, potholders, trivets and other decorative items.

Scented soaps, colognes and perfumes are always welcomed on Christmas



morning. And who says stocking stuffers have to cost less than other gifts? Imagine the delight on the face of a young lady as she shakes out the stocking and a diamond necklace, earrings or a watch spills into her lap!

Delicious, small-serving sizes of gourmet treats also make unique stocking

stuffers—special cheeses, meats, pastries, cookies—all beautifully wrapped and ready for Yuletide palates. Among the scrumptious snacks you might choose to stuff a stocking with are granola snacks from Nature Valley, available in a variety of flavors from chocolate chip to peanut butter, raspberry to apple. They are a tasteful way to say "Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

Home Fillers

Thawed red meats can be cooked and refrozen, but do not refreeze raw meats that have warmed to room temperature.

Pork cuts low in fat include the sirloin roast, loin chop, center cut of fresh ham, cured ham butt, whole cured ham and pork tenderloin.

When buying a convenience breakfast food, check the list of ingredients. Some are extremely high in sugar, and ingredients are listed in order of predominance.

Cookies, baked or unbaked, will keep about six months in the freezer.

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